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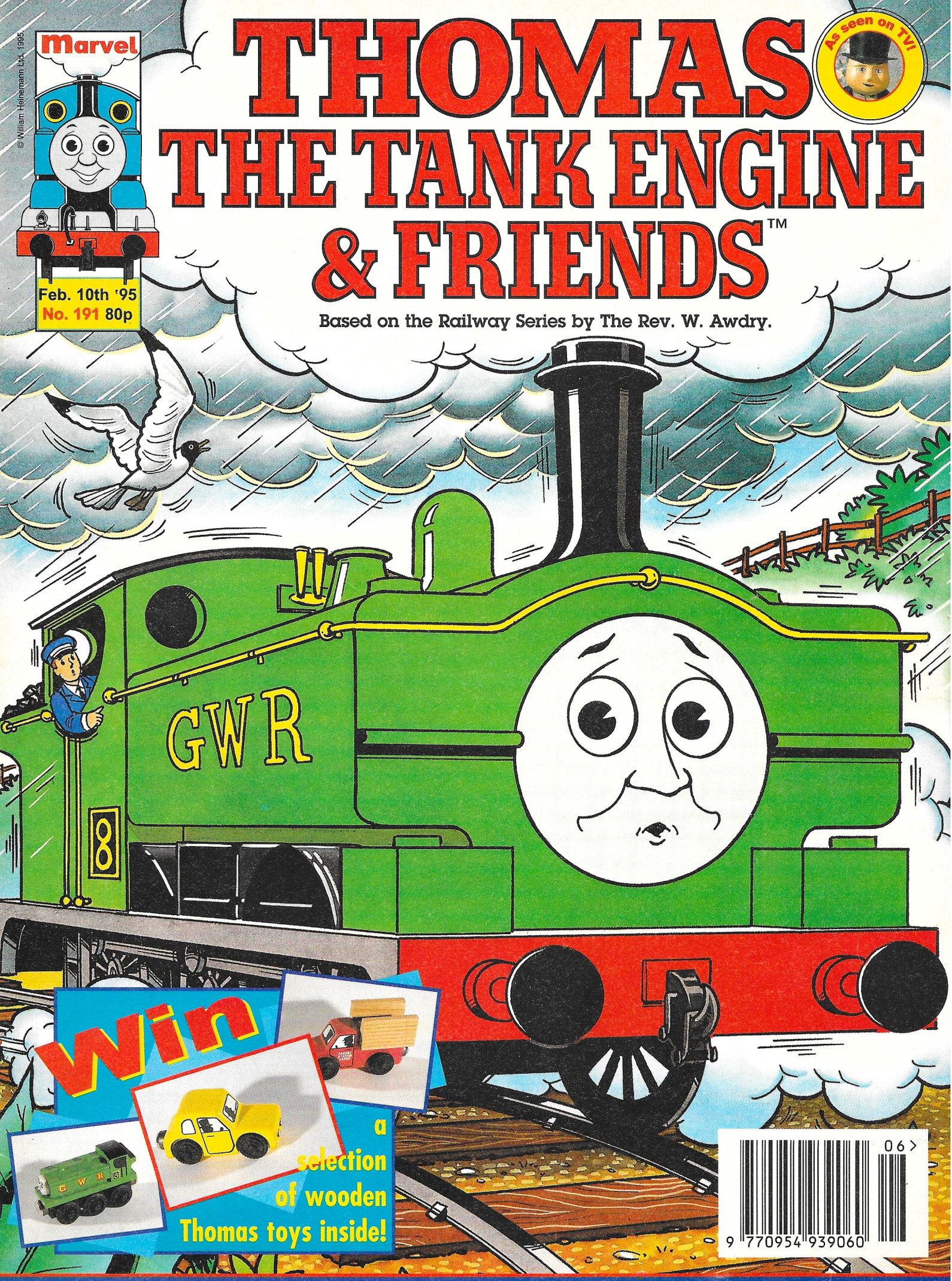
Marvel

Feb. 10th '95
No. 191 80p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Win a selection of wooden Thomas toys inside!

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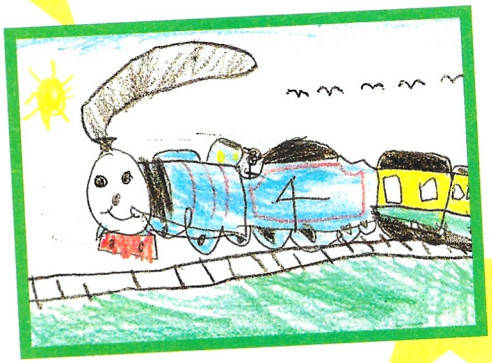
Stories! Colour collage! How railways work!

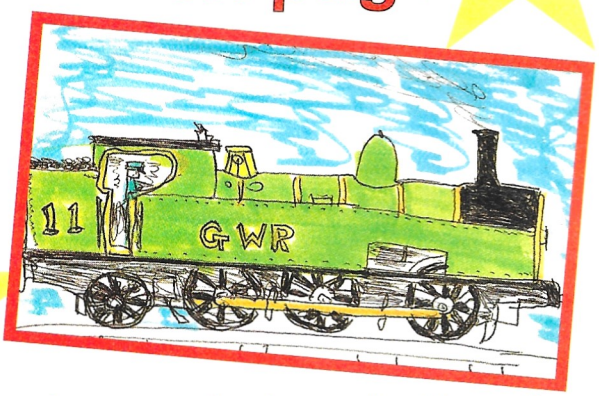
ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! In this special issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Duck and Bertie get each other out of trouble in our exciting story, **'Duck in danger!'**, while Thomas knows the best way to spot an engine in **'The train spotters!'** Next, see how many engines *you* can spot in our special feature all about how railways work! And then, find out what the chief engineer will do after he retires from the Fat Controller's railway, in our last story **'Thomas and Ted!'**

Letters and pictures on page 10!





Turn to page 14 for your chance win an exclusive selection of new handcrafted wooden models of Thomas and his friends!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman; Michael Z.Hobson, Managing Director; Paul Neary, Editorial Director; Alan O'Keefe, Group Editor; David Paul Boyle, Editor; Helen Nally, Art Director; Ciara Mulvany & Liz Stott, Design; Irfan Yunis & Mark Irvine, Production Control. Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P 0AU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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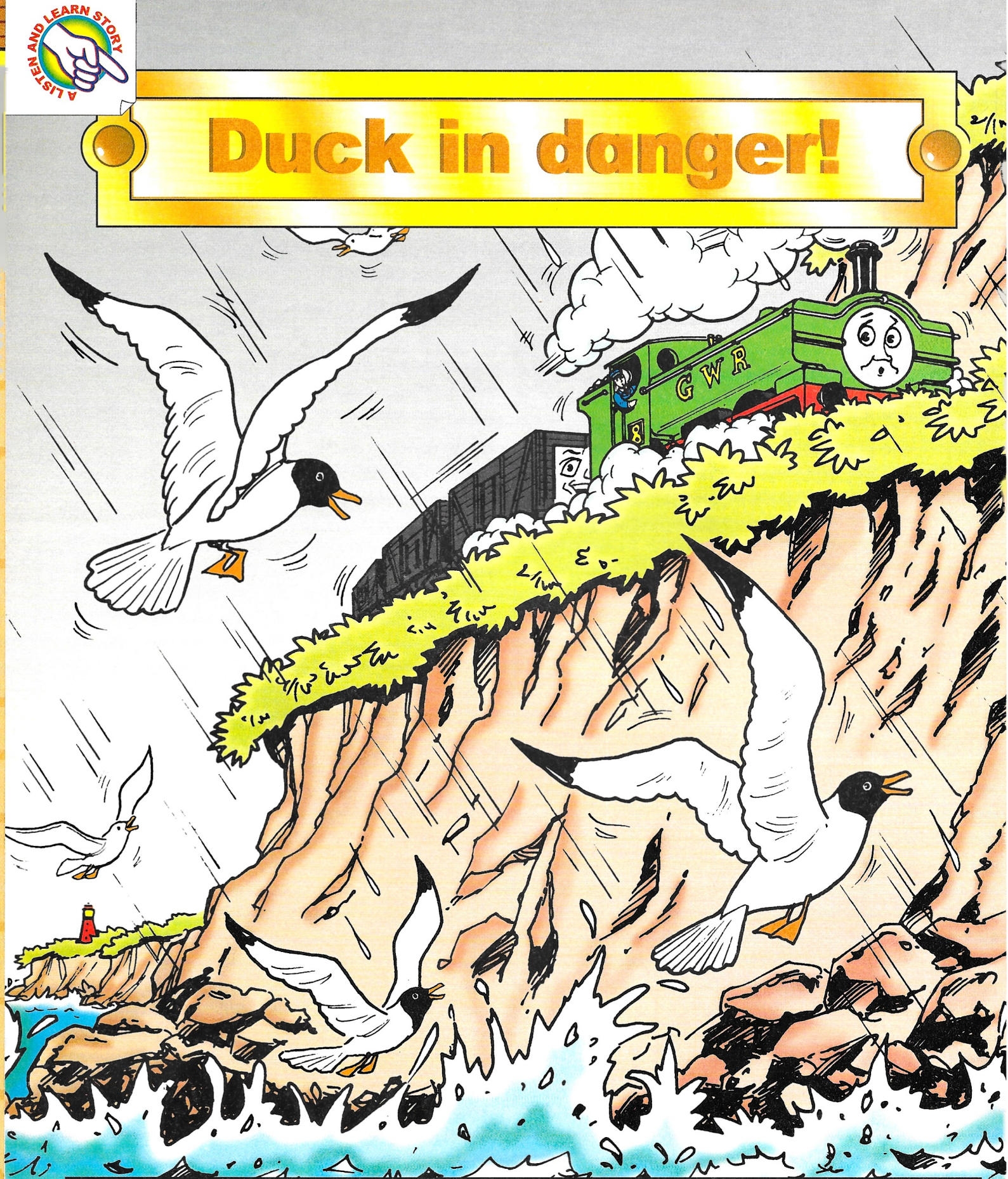
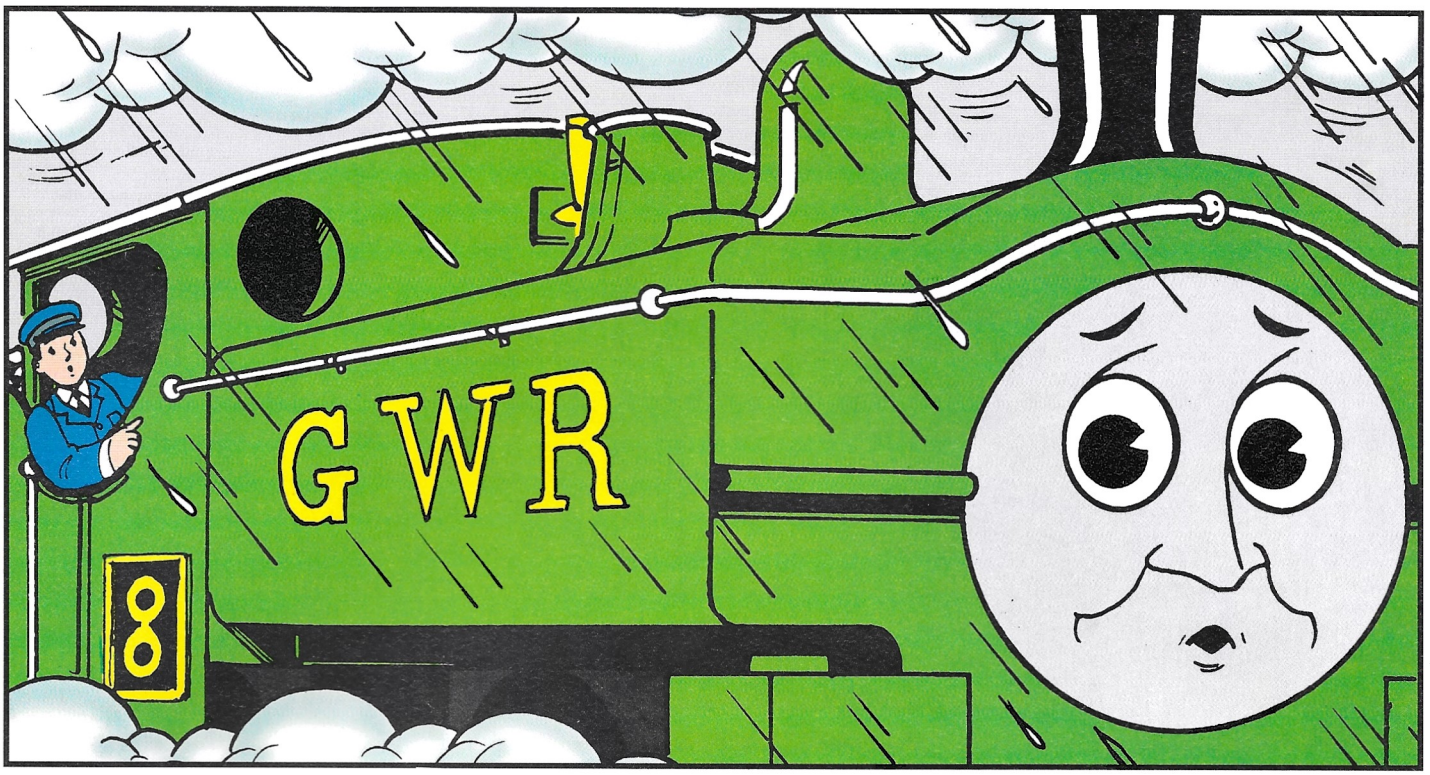
Duck in danger!



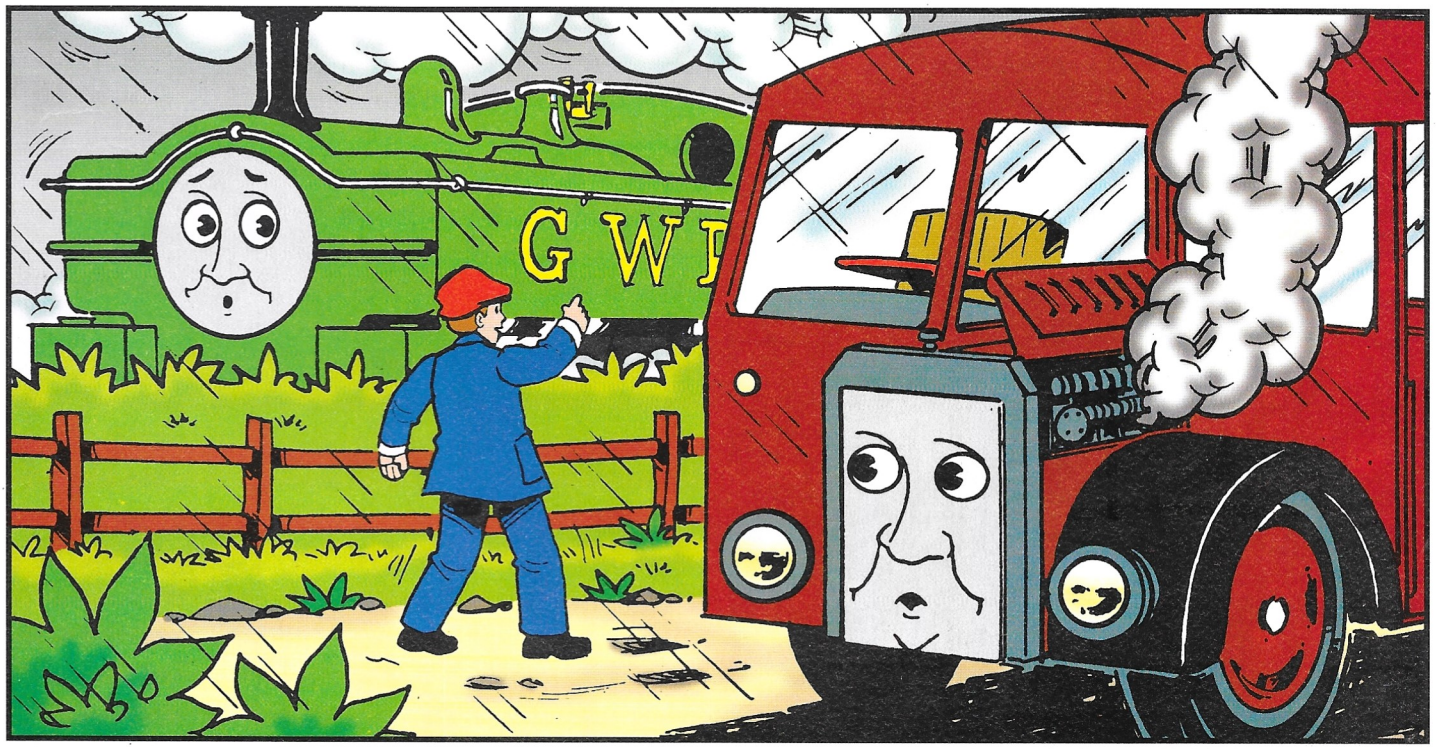
1. One afternoon, Duck was pulling some trucks along his branch line, by the sea. It was hard work as he puffed up a very steep cliff.

2. At the top, the wind howled and tugged at his wheels. Big raindrops beat against his face. "I must keep going!" hissed Duck.



3. Far below, huge waves crashed onto the beach. Duck saw that some earth and rocks had slipped down the cliff. "Look!" he cried.

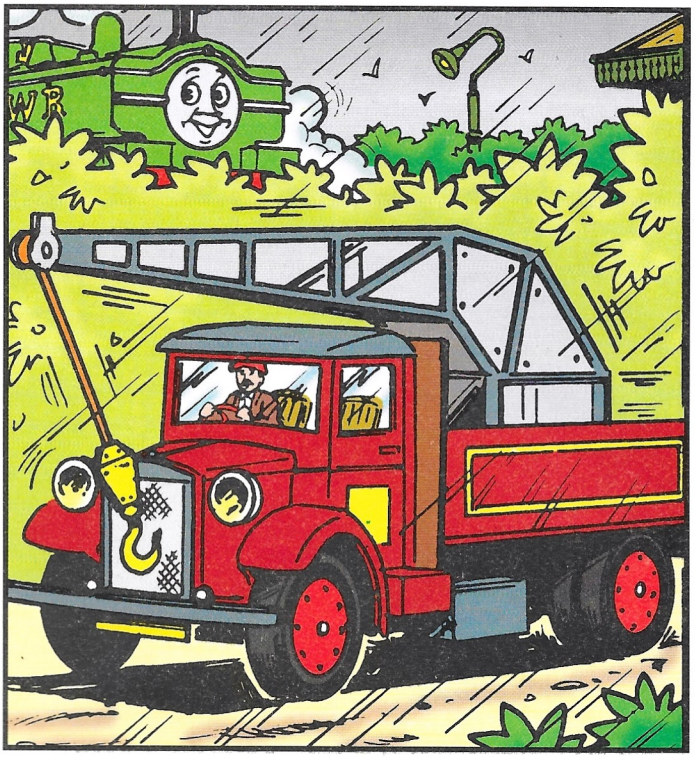
4. "The winter storms have caused a part of the cliff edge to crumble!" said his driver. Nervously, Duck continued his journey.



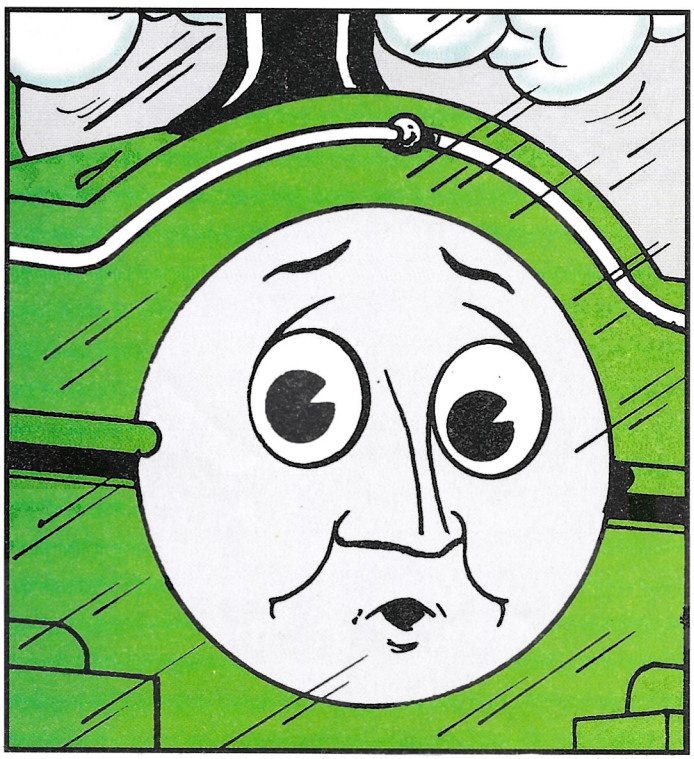
5. Soon, he saw Bertie the Bus in a lane, beside the track. Bertie's driver waved urgently. "Hello! What's wrong?" said Duck.

6. "I've broken down!" cried Bertie. He needed a new motor part from the bus depot. "I'll send for help!" said Duck, kindly.

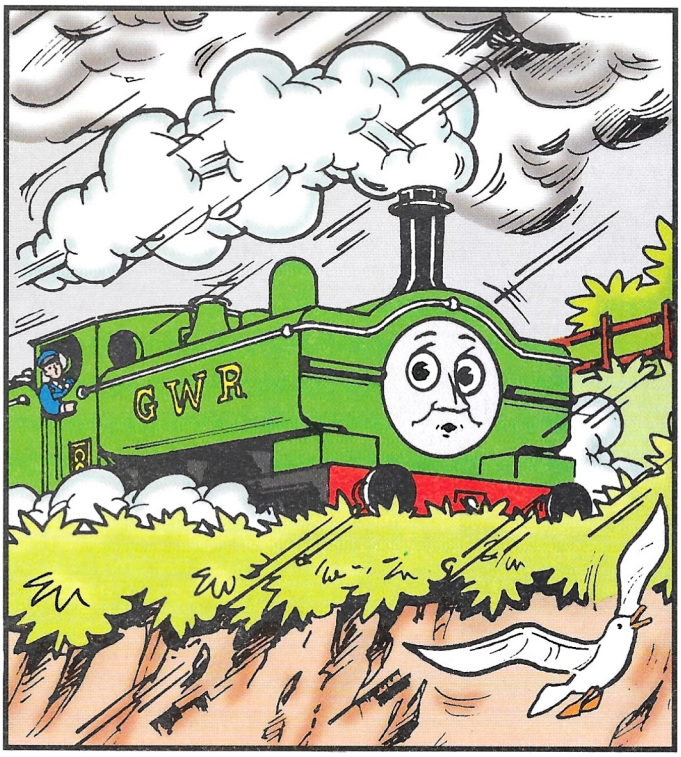
7. He steamed even harder through the wind and rain. At the next station, Duck waited while his driver quickly rang up the bus depot.



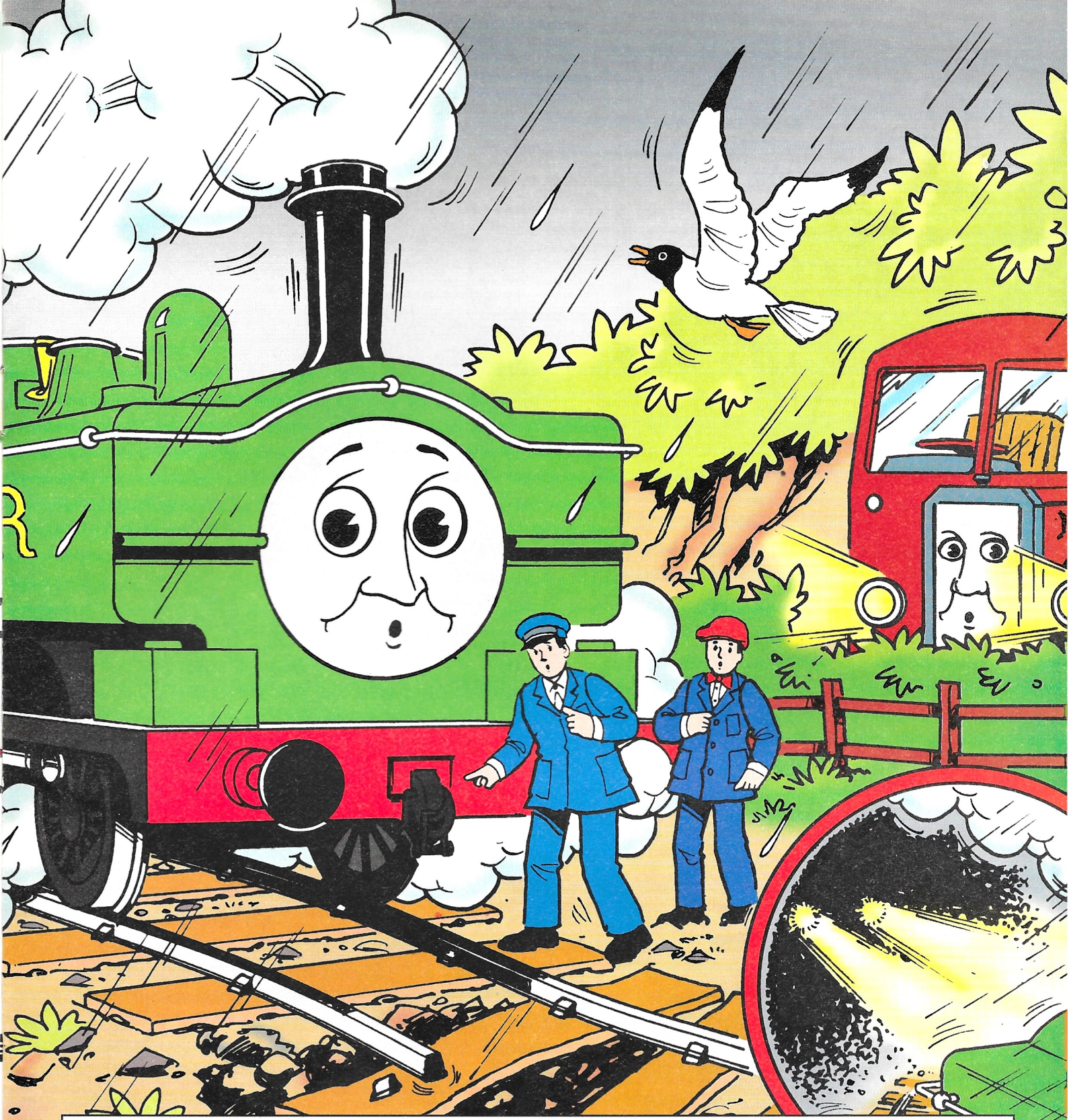
8. A breakdown lorry set off quickly from the depot to rescue Bertie. "He'll be safely on his way again in next to no time!" smiled Duck.



9. Later, Duck delivered the trucks to the last station on his branch line. "The journey back couldn't be any worse!" thought Duck wearily.

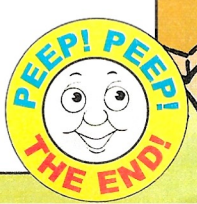


10. But the wind was howling even stronger and the rain fell more heavily. Stormclouds made it seem much darker as Duck neared the clifftop.



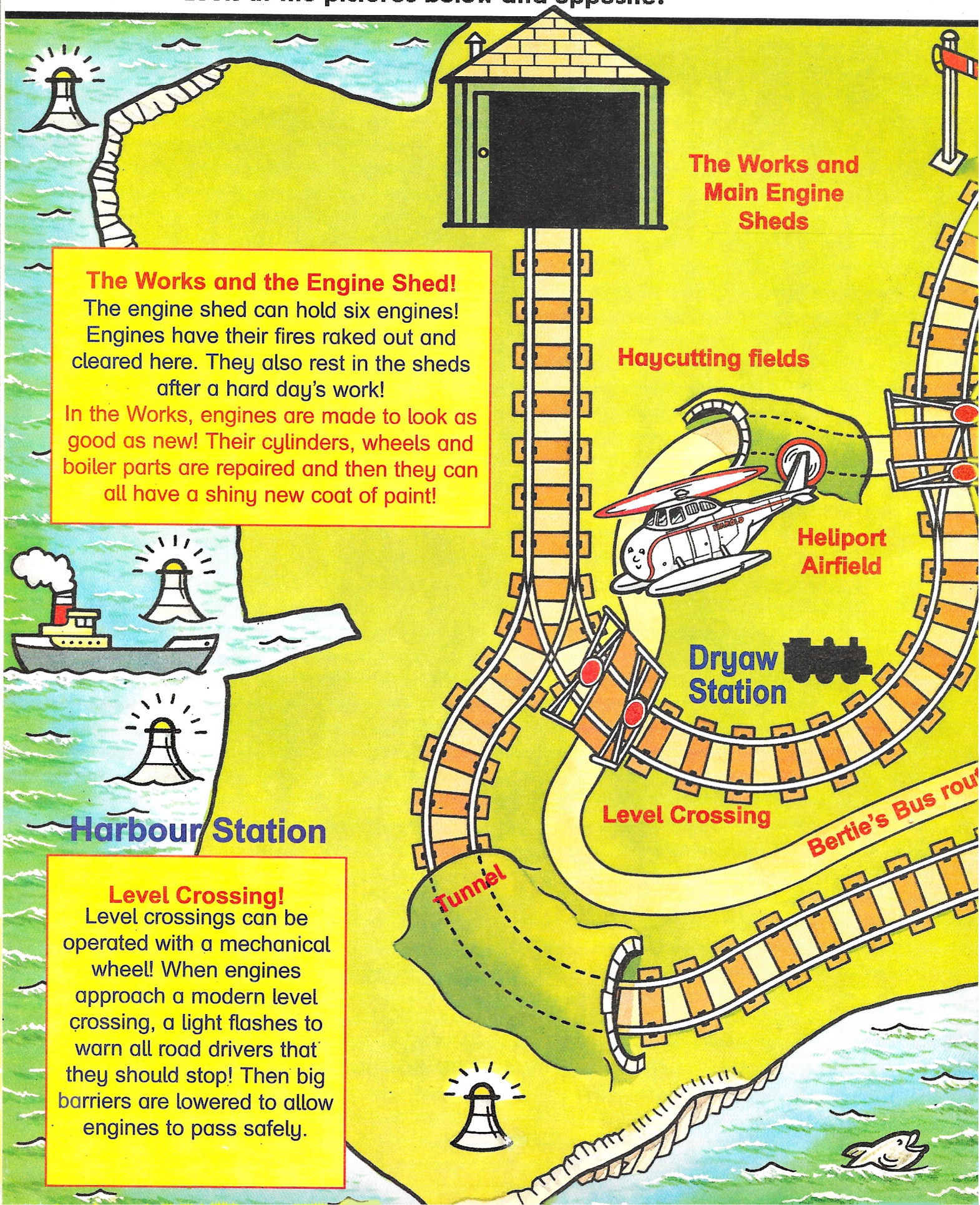
11. Then he saw two headlamps shining through the gloom straight at him. A motor horn parped. "It's Bertie!" cried Duck, braking hard. "Is he in trouble again?" Bertie's driver hurried closer. "It's lucky you stopped!" he called.

12. Another landslide had caused a length of track to break away. Duck was shocked. "It's lucky I came back this way," said Bertie. "I spotted the danger, then heard you coming!" "What a clever warning," said Duck. "It's my turn to thank **you**!"



Running the railway!

The Fat Controller runs a very busy and efficient railway! Have you ever wondered what makes a railway run efficiently? Look at the pictures below and opposite!



The Works and the Engine Shed!

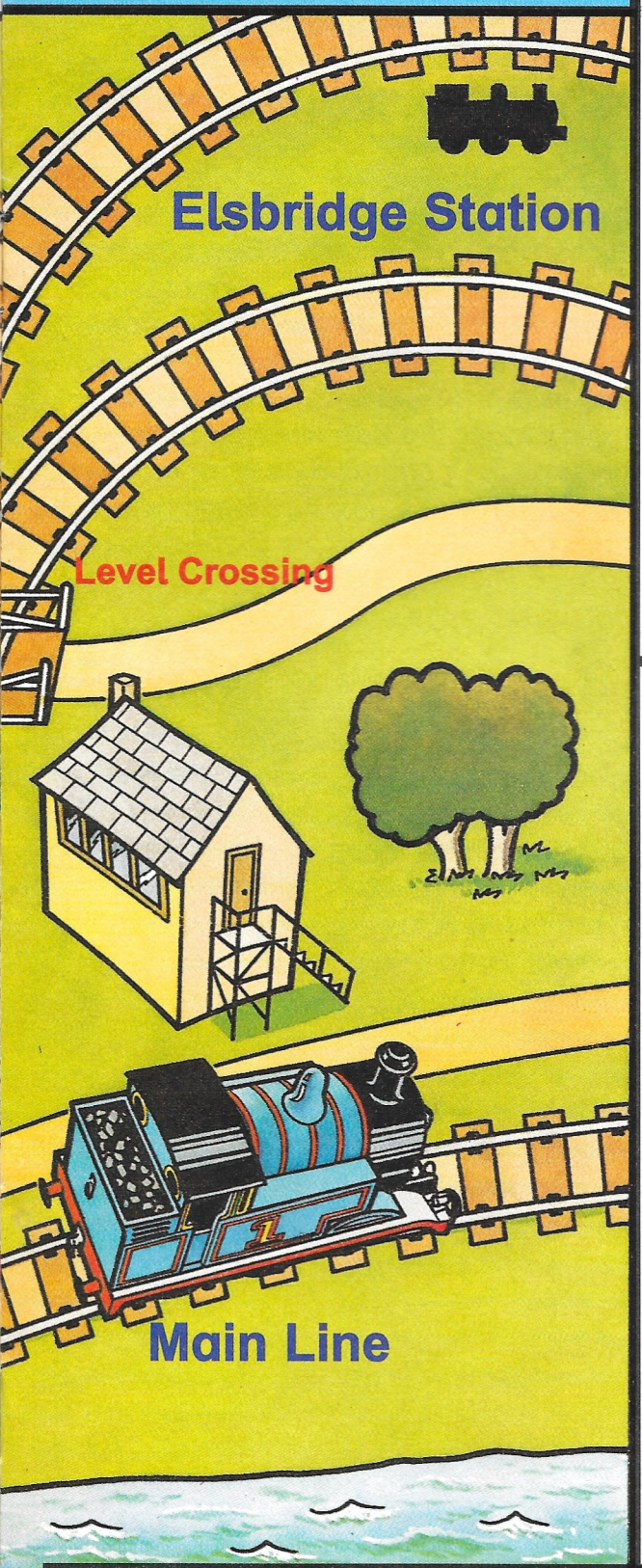
The engine shed can hold six engines! Engines have their fires raked out and cleared here. They also rest in the sheds after a hard day's work!

In the Works, engines are made to look as good as new! Their cylinders, wheels and boiler parts are repaired and then they can all have a shiny new coat of paint!

Level Crossing!

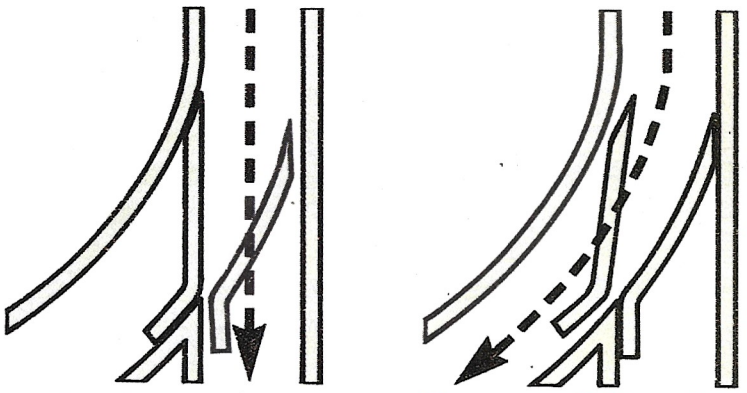
Level crossings can be operated with a mechanical wheel! When engines approach a modern level crossing, a light flashes to warn all road drivers that they should stop! Then big barriers are lowered to allow engines to pass safely.

You will learn how engines are maintained; how rail lines are operated; what makes an engine work and why level crossings are needed on the Island of Sodor Railway.



What the points are used for!

Points are small pieces of rail track that can be moved to send the train in a new direction.



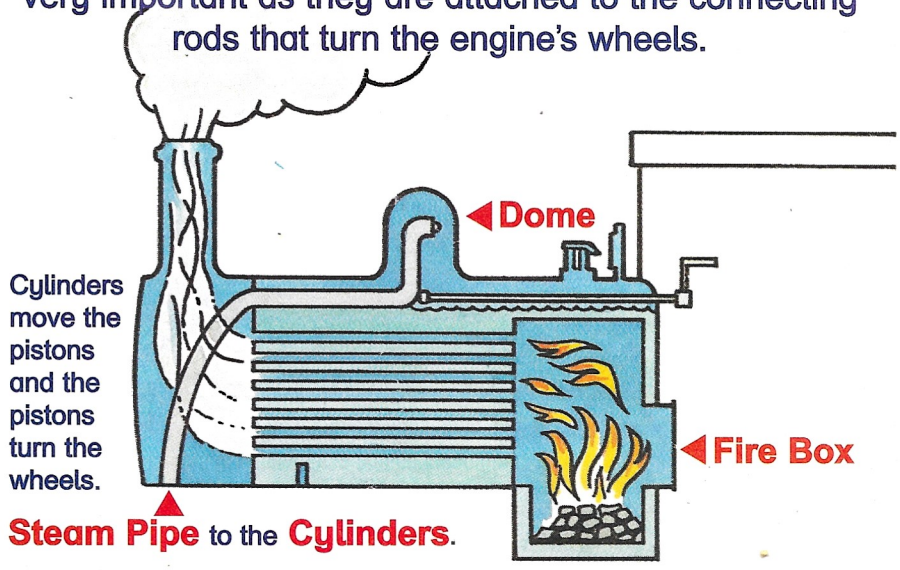
Engine travels straight ahead!

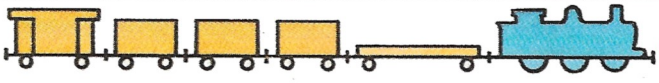
Change of direction!

Points can be changed inside a signal box by pulling a lever! Points are moved by thick metal rods and wires. All points need to be locked tightly together before signals can change. When signals point upwards, it is safe for the engines to continue their journey.

How does Thomas's engine work?

Look at the little picture to see how steam is produced inside Thomas's engine boiler! Hot gases, inside the engine boiler are produced by the heat of a firebox. When water boils, it produces steam! Steam collects inside the dome and is then fed through special steam pipes to the cylinders. Cylinders are very important as they are attached to the connecting rods that turn the engine's wheels.





Other notes about the Island of Sodor Railway!

Harold the Helicopter's airfield is near Dryaw Station. His heliport is owned by the Island coastguard! Many engine tools and parts are mainly made out of iron! Engine wheels do not grip rails so easily when they have to climb steep hills. This is why railway workers always try to cut rails through tunnels to keep lines as level and flat as possible.

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engines are James and Gordon. Last year, I visited Tyseley Railway Museum and met some of Thomas's friends, including Diesel. He frowned all the time! Can you tell me why Diesel is so angry all the time?
Love from **Ashley**, aged 3.

I've never ever believed that all diesels are troublesome, but on my railway, Diesel has very rarely been out of trouble! I often have to discipline him for his bad behaviour, and he would rather frown and sulk instead of being useful like Thomas and Trevor!

'BLUEBELL' ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
When my family and I went to the Nene Valley Railway, we discovered an engine called 'Stepney'. Can you tell us about 'Stepney' and where he came from?
Love from **Ryan** and **Conor Quinn**.

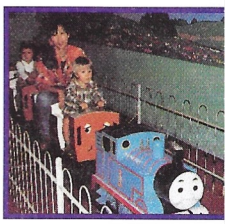
'Stepney' is known as the 'Bluebell of England Engine' as he mainly works on the 'Bluebell Railway'. On one occasion, the Fat Controller asked Stepney to visit the Island of Sodor Railway and the 'Bluebell' engine showed Diesel and Duck how reliable he could be by reaching the Main Station without their help!

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I enjoyed the story called 'The prize picture!' when a boy called Ben became so excited about meeting Thomas that he forgot that he was to take photographs of the wildlife park!
Love from **James Smith**, aged 4.

I do remember the day when Thomas was to collect some enthusiasts from the Island of Sodor Camera Club, including a boy named Ben. Did you know that Ben's own picture of Thomas won him a special book about steam engines?

PHOTO STOP!



Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy and daddy took me to see Thomas last year, when I was 2 years old. I rode on Annie and Clarabel, with my friend Aya.
Love from **Jude Aki-Field**, aged 3.

Dear Fat Controller,
My name is Christopher and I had a party for my 2nd birthday. My mummy made me a cake with a picture of Thomas on it. Here is a picture of me blowing out the candles!
Love from **Christopher McGuinness**, aged 2.

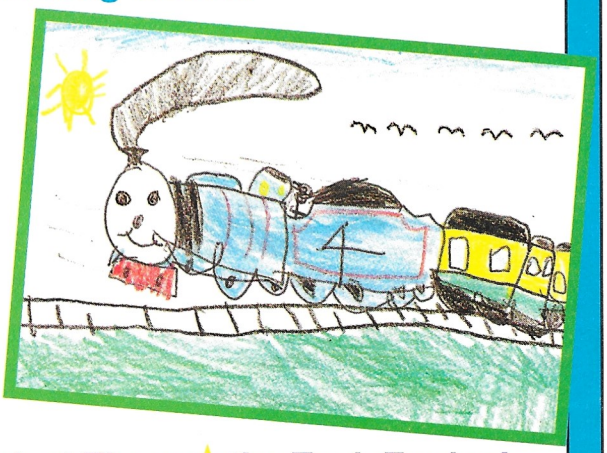
BIRTHDAYS!

Terence Webb, Callum Cook, Zachary Kenneth Fischer, Simon Hope, David James and Rebecca Elizabeth Elvis, Terry Keenan and belated mentions for Colin Thebold and Ryan Phillips.

Drawing Board!

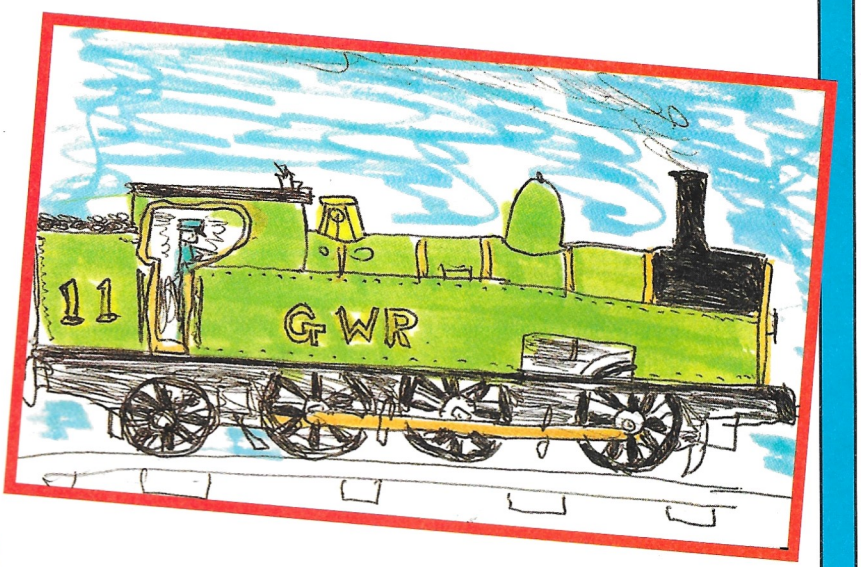
Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

Gordon is pulling the Express but his driver always brakes carefully when they puff down Gordon's Hill! Joshua Copeland, from Merseyside, has sent us this splendid picture.



Look at Thomas the Tank Engine! He's always a very busy engine. The Fat Controller is travelling with him today. This picture was drawn by Claire and David Szemis, from Glasgow, Scotland.

James Franklin, from Southampton, has sent us a colourful picture of Duck the G.W.R. Engine, while he puffs along his own branch line.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book**

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on this page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

K is f

Which engine can you see?
What colour is she?
Colour the guard's keys!
What do we use keys for?

What colour is the guard's jacke
How many kittens is the girl hol
Point to the station house!
Can you think of a station name
that begins with the letter K?

or _ _ _ _

ng? This centrespread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WI

NEW THOMAS MODELS TO BE WON!

Would you like to win a fabulous new collection of Thomas models? Benjamin toys have just produced a unique set which includes Bertie the Bus, Donald and Douglas, Diesel, Daisy, Boco, Duck, the Troublesome Brake Van, Sodor Line Caboose, Henry's Forest Log Car, Knapford Express Coach, Tidmouth Milk Tanker, Sir Topham Hatt's Car, Crosby Station Cargo Truck and the Sodor Bay Cargo Ship and Tug Boat.

Our special prize winner will be able to play with all his or her prize models on other wooden railway systems. The above models are also available in all good independent toy shops and many of the leading major toy retailers.

Duck £9.99

Sir Topham Hatt's Car £5.99

Crosby Station Cargo Truck £5.99

Sodor Line Caboose £7.99

Sodor Bay Cargo Ship £13.99

Britt Allcroft

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

BENJAMIN TOYS LIMITED

HOW TO ENTER:

One of the new models featured in our complete prize is the Tidmouth Milk Tanker! Thomas the Tank Engine delivers it to the farms! We would like you to draw and paint your own picture of a Milk Tanker being pulled by one of your favourite engines. You may also include a little farm scene, with some animals! The sender of the best picture will win the complete collection of Thomas models as listed above. Send your picture and your name, age and address to Thomas/Benjamin Toys Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX by February 24th, 1995.

Competition rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and Benjamin Toys Ltd. All entries will be judged with careful attention to the entrant's age. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. 1995.

The train spotters!

One cold but bright morning, Thomas was taking a goods train along his branch line. A signal was at 'stop' so he pulled up and waited by it. Beyond the track was a wood.

"The trees look very bare in winter," thought Thomas.

Suddenly, he saw some people building a little hut in the branches of a big tree. Thomas was surprised.

"Smoke and fire!" he gasped. "Why are they doing that?"

The people told Thomas's driver that they were bird watchers.

"The hut is called a 'hide'," a lady explained. "When the leaves on the tree grow again in spring, we can sit quietly in the hide to watch the birds without disturbing them!"

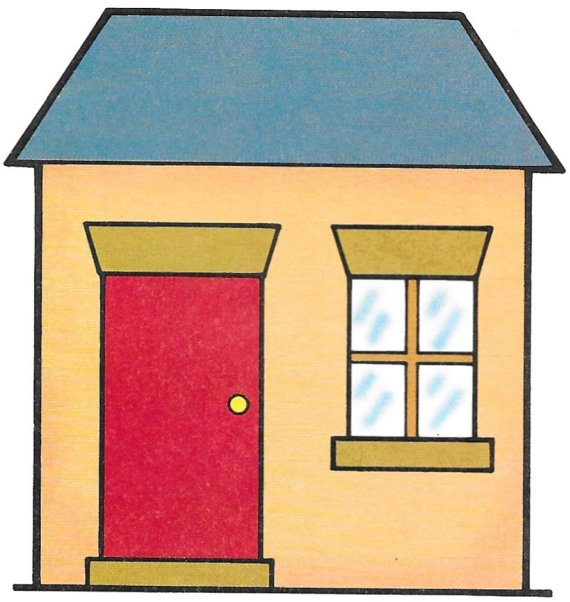
The signal changed to show that the line was clear. Thomas puffed on his way. As he returned to the Main Station, he saw more people on a bridge above the busy yard. They had notebooks and pencils.

"They're train spotters, not bird spotters!" said Thomas's driver. "They write down all the different engines they see!" Thomas could see that each of the train spotters held different pictures of the Fat Controller's engines.

Thomas puffed slowly under the bridge. Thick smoke from his funnel blew all over the train spotters.

"Oh, no! Sorry!" he called.

The poor train spotters already had sooty marks on



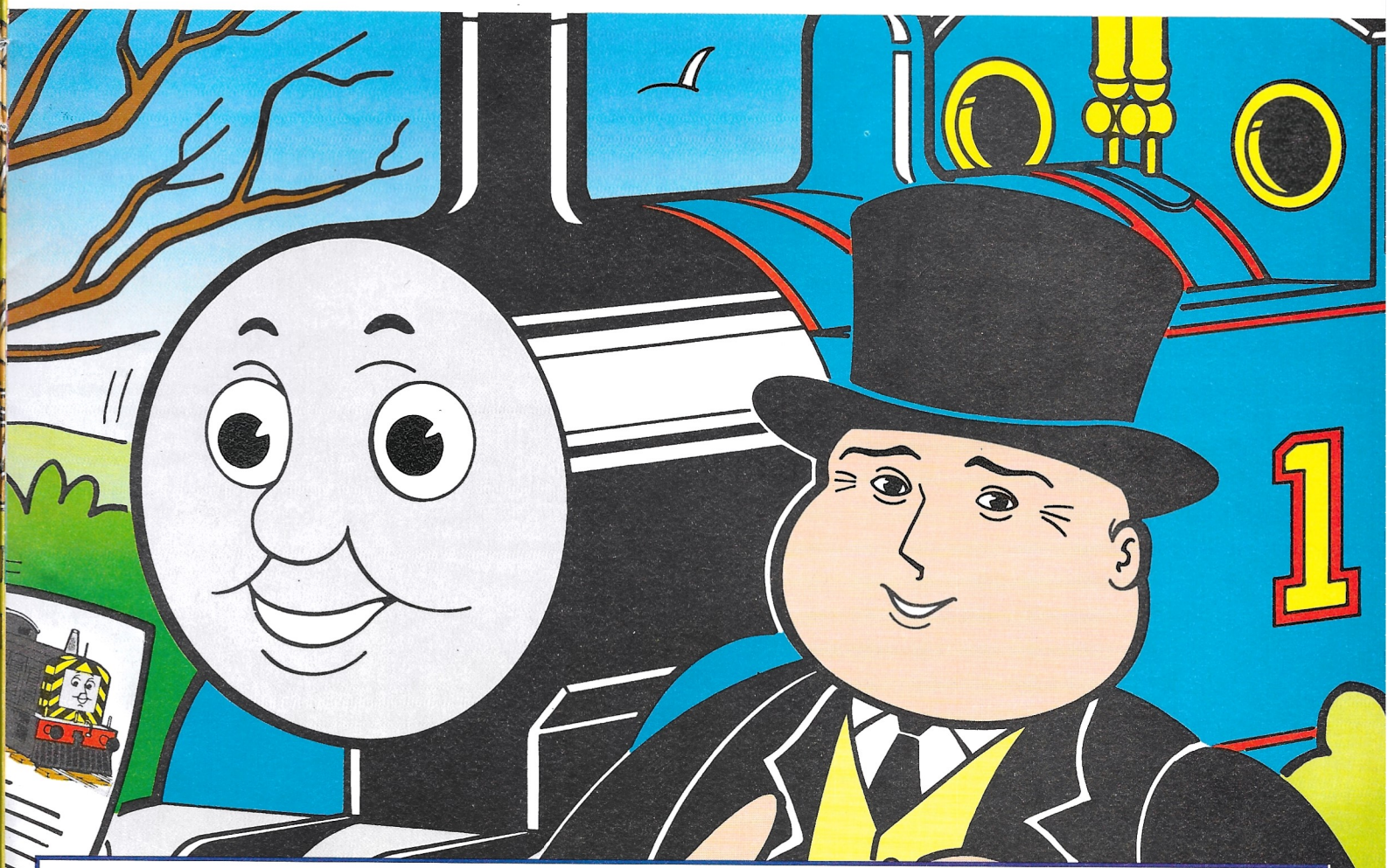
shed

their clothes from all the other engines that had passed underneath them.

Near the station was an old storage shed. It was not used any more. Thomas had an idea. He spoke to the Fat Controller about it. Soon the shed was repaired and some chairs were put

in it. Then the Fat Controller told the train spotters they could use the shed to watch his engines, without getting dirty.

"It's a train spotters' 'hide' now," said Thomas happily, "because they can hide safely inside it!"



The train spotters are looking at different pictures of famous engines!
Write down the names of all the different engines you can see!

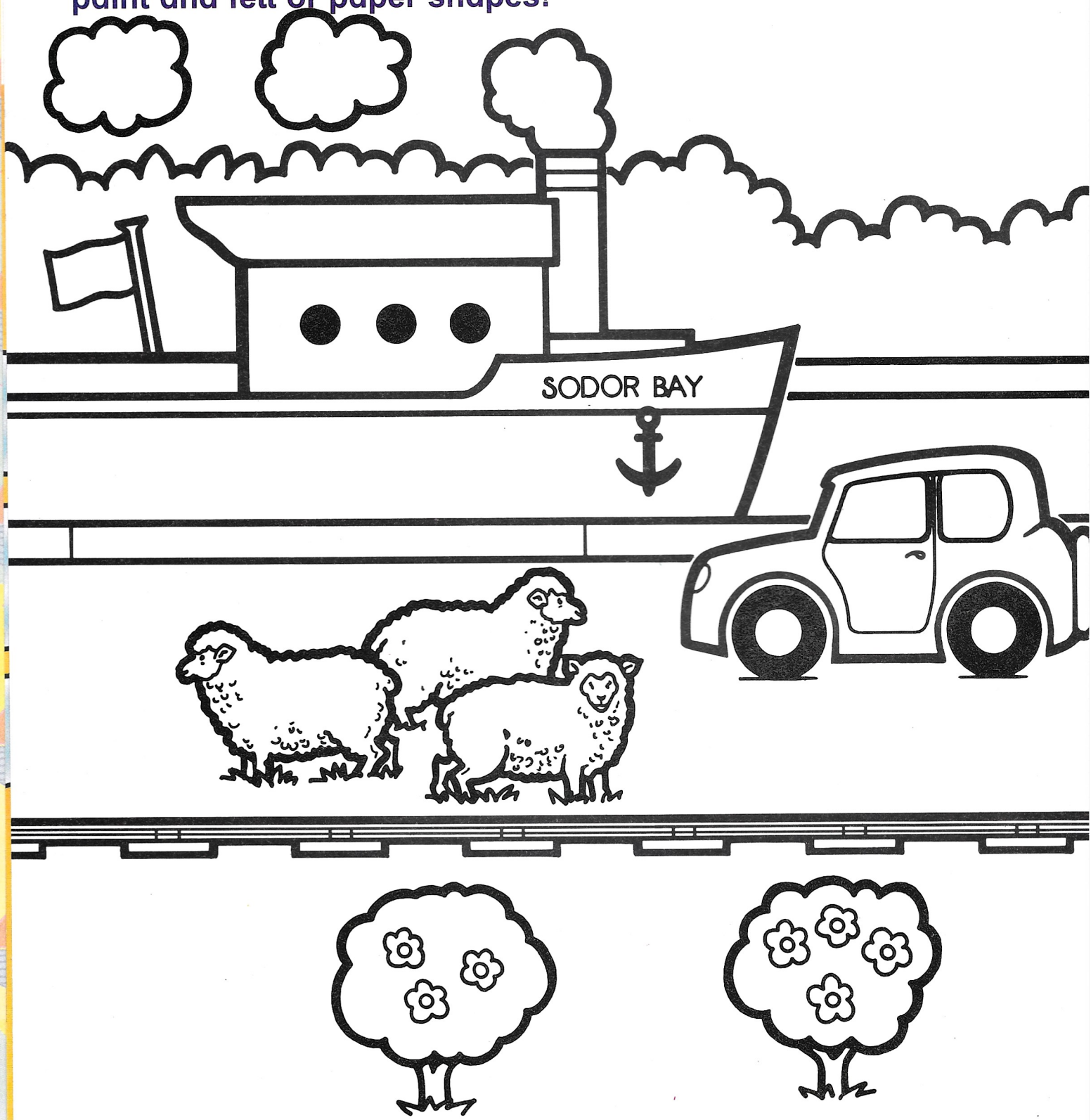
Mavis Percy

Thomas

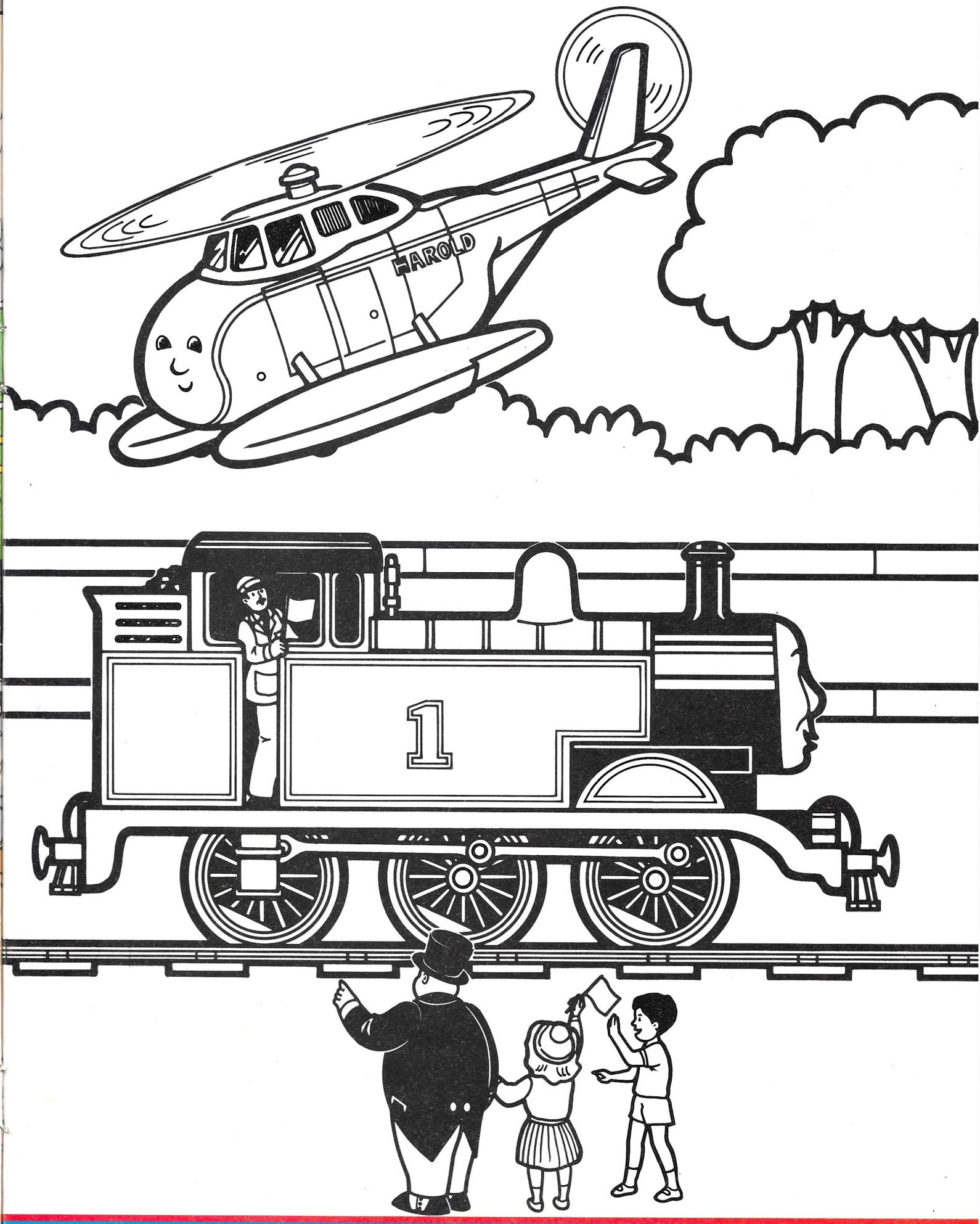
Now finish the big picture by joining the dots!

Colour collage!

Thomas is puffing past the riverbank! He can see a steam riverboat, the Fat Controller's car and Harold the Helicopter is flying overhead. Colour the big scene! You can use crayons, paint and felt or paper shapes!



How many wheels can you see in the picture?
Did you know that the spoked wheel was invented four thousand years ago?
Railway engine wheels are made out of iron!

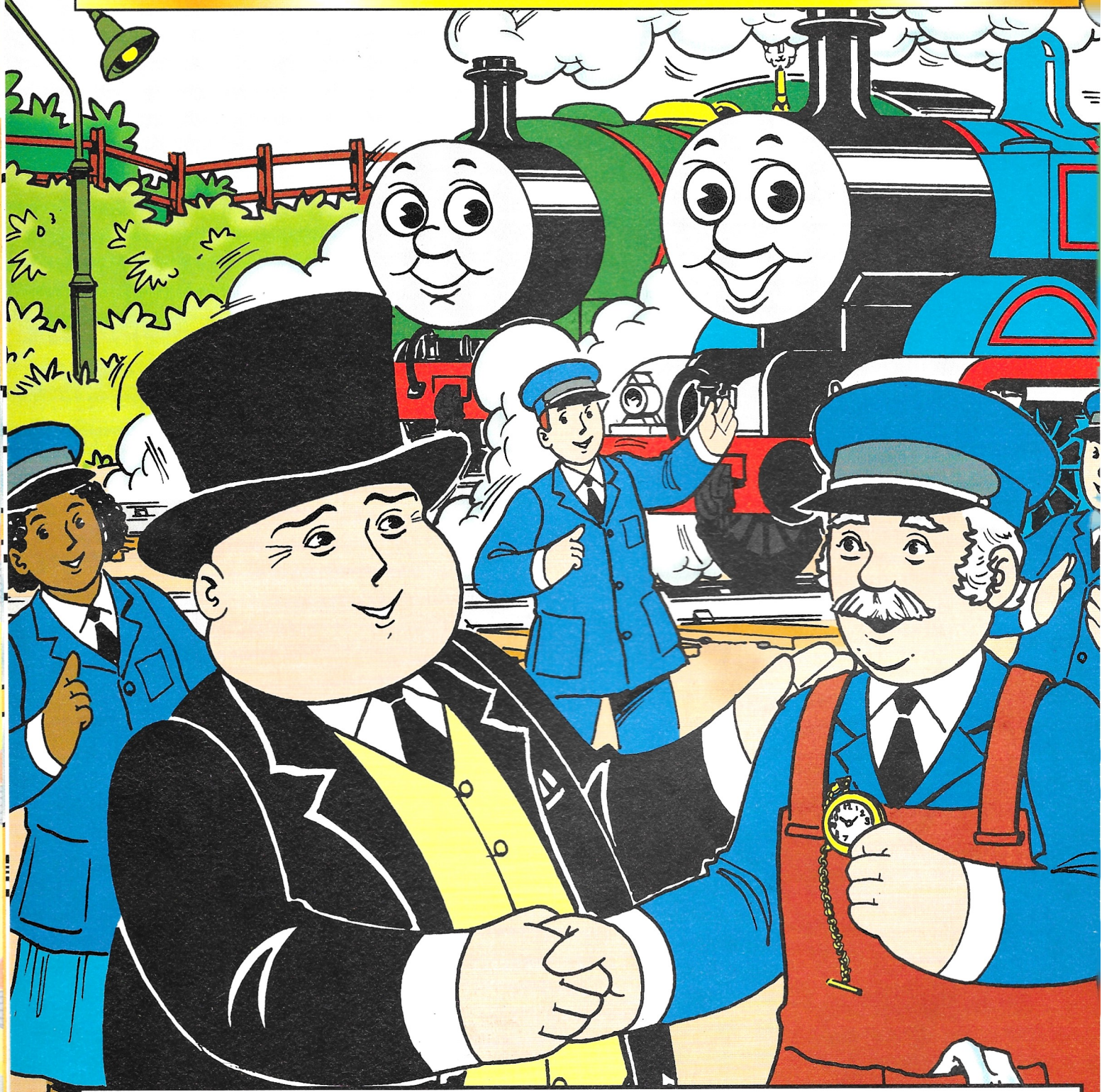


Look at Thomas and the Fat Controller's car! They are called land machines!

What type of flying machine is Harold?

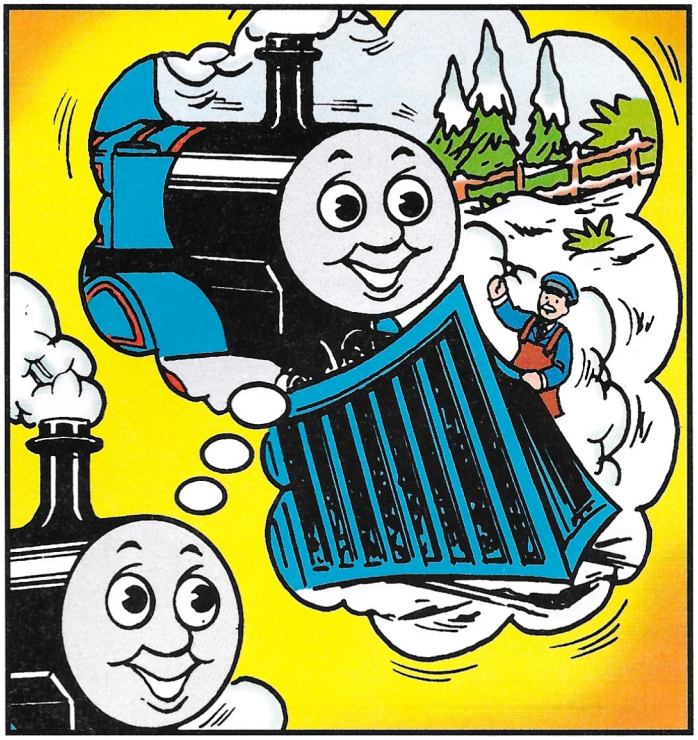
How many flags can you see in the picture?

Thomas and Ted!

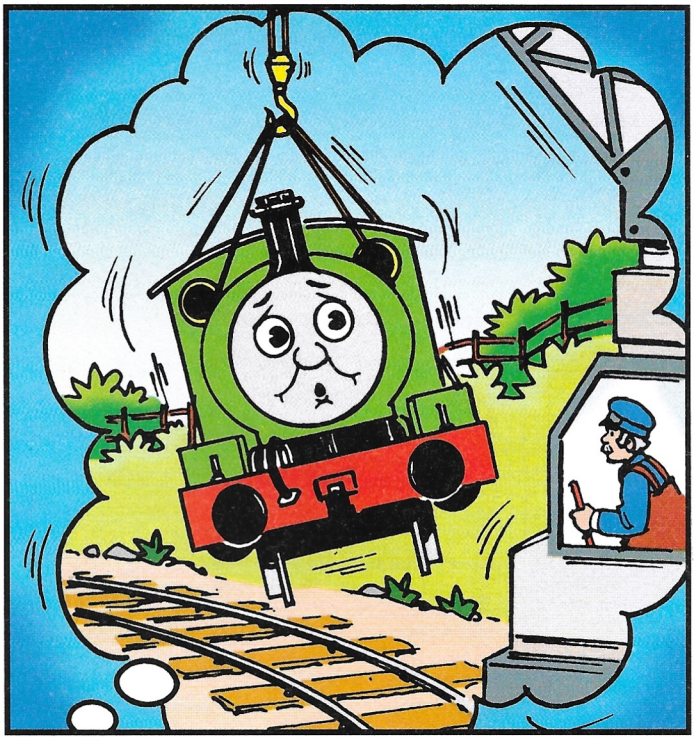


1. It was an important day! Ted, the chief engineer, was retiring. The Fat Controller shook Ted's hand and gave him a gold watch.

2. The engines were sad. "It's a shame," said Thomas. "We'll miss Ted! He always lent a hand when things went wrong," replied Henry.

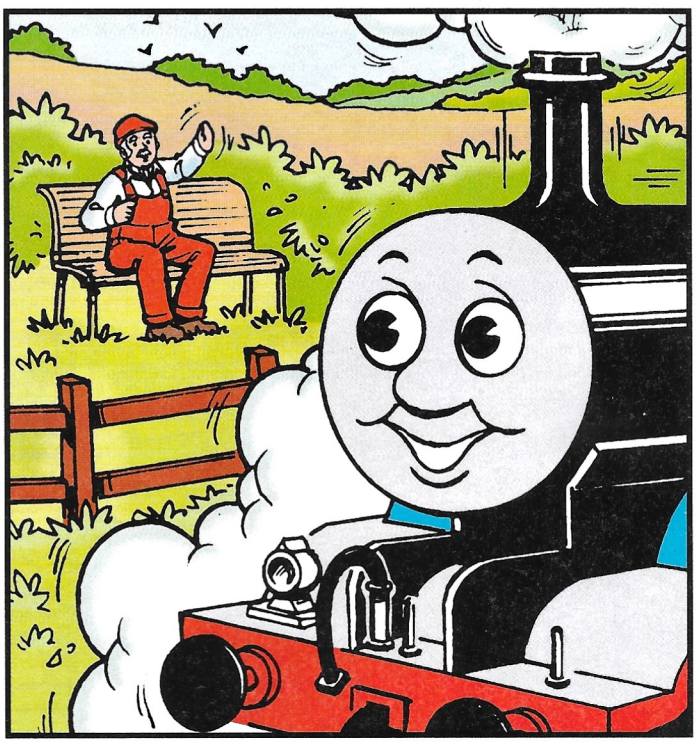


3. Thomas remembered the time when he ran into a big snowdrift. "Ted fixed a snow-plough to me so I could push the snow away!" he said.

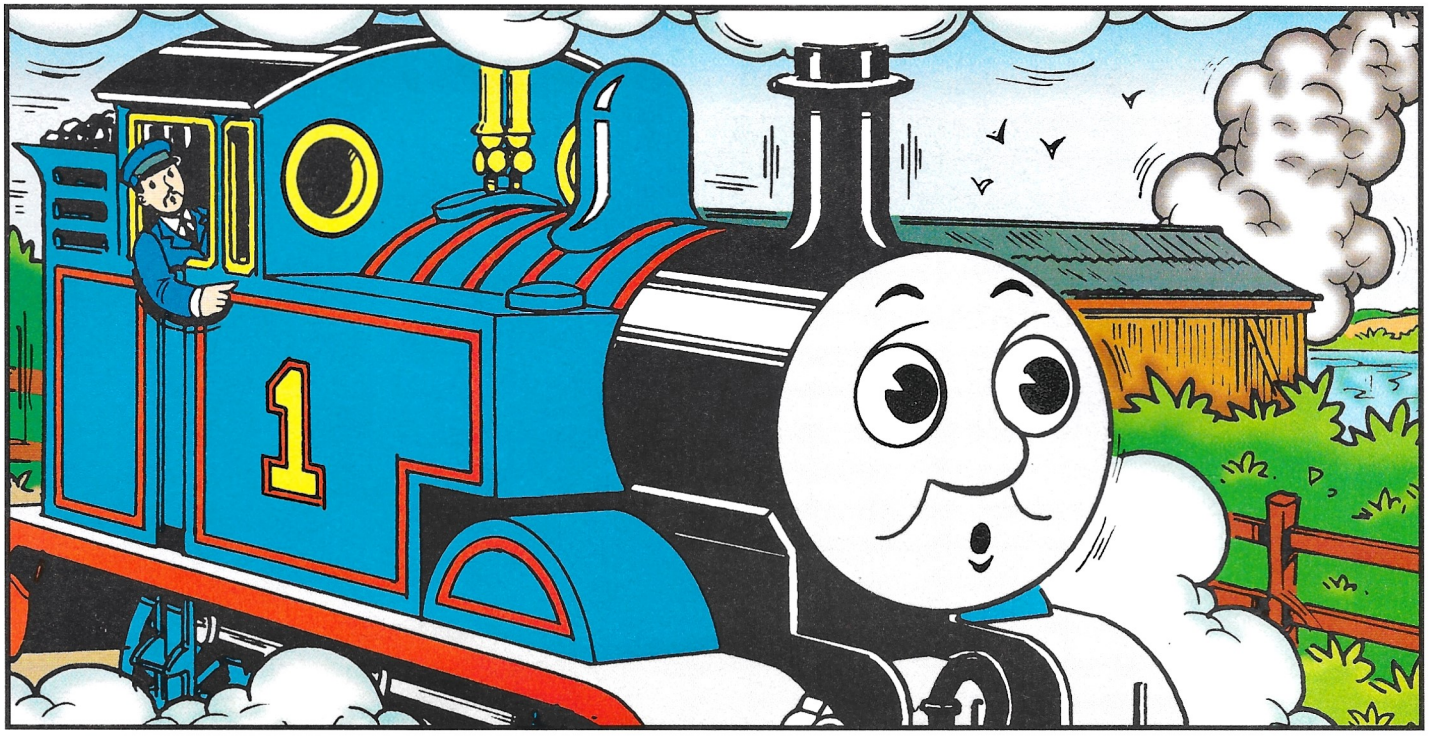


4. "When I was derailed near the Main Station, Ted quickly organised the rescue team and crane that lifted me back on to the rails!" added Percy.

5. Other engines told their stories, too. "I am sure Ted will miss us!" said Thomas. He was right. Each day, Thomas saw Ted near his branch line.

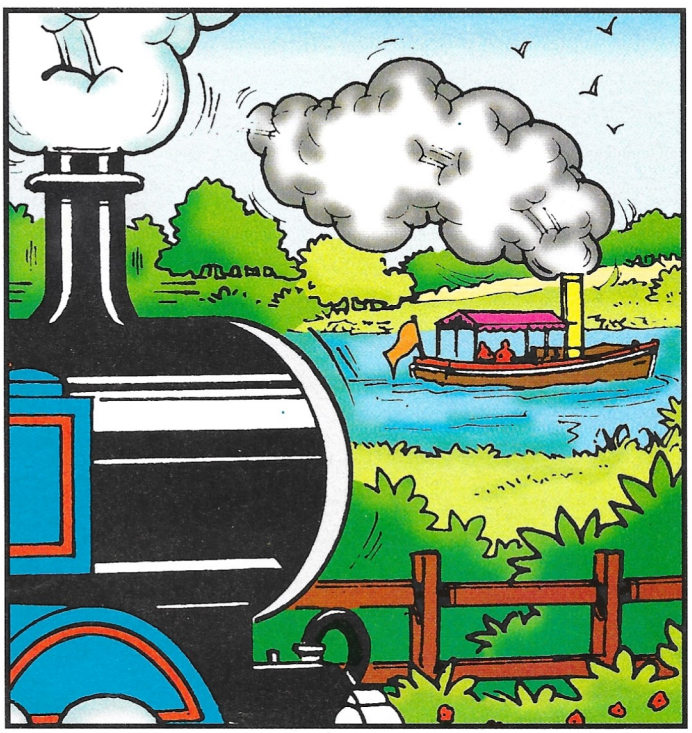


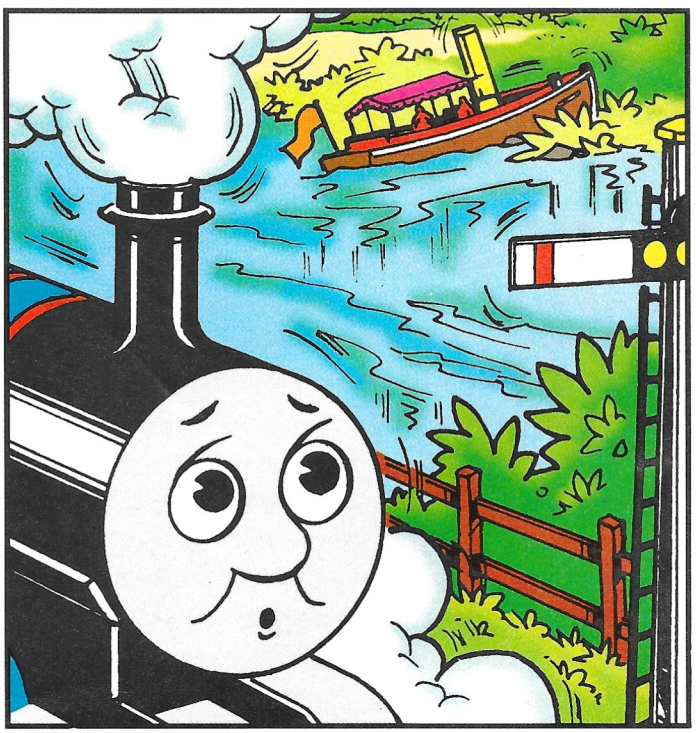
6. He sat on a bench and waited for Thomas. Ted always waved and Thomas whistled. "Now Ted can only watch engines!" thought Thomas.



7. Thomas steamed along a riverbank. Suddenly, he saw smoke puffing into the air from inside a big shed which was standing near the water.

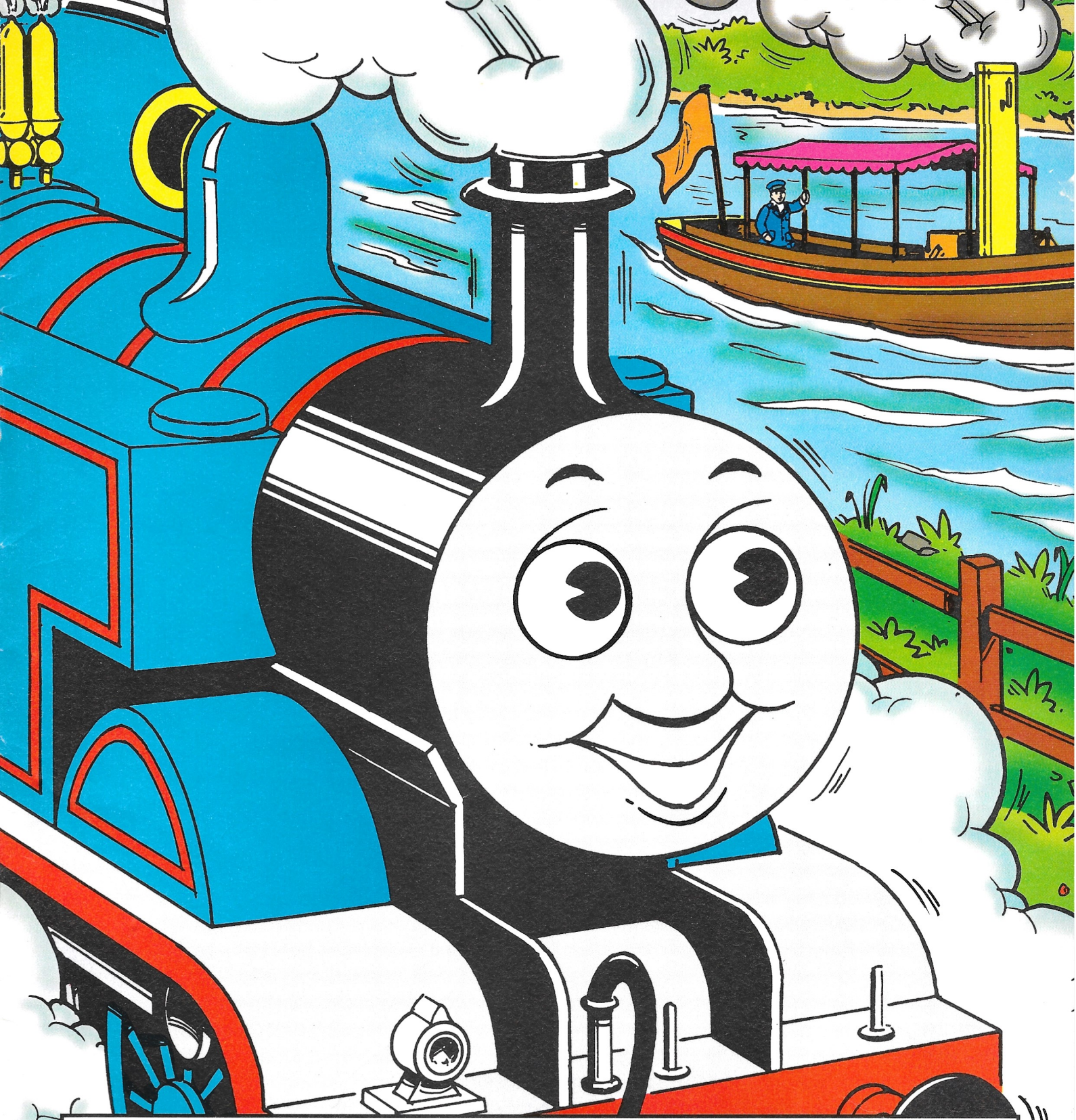
8. "Look!" Thomas called to his driver. "It's like steam from an engine. But engines don't float!" Then they spotted the cause of the smoke.





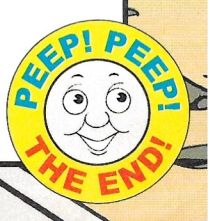
9. A river steamer chugged out of the shed, which was a boathouse. "That boat can carry passengers!" explained Thomas's driver.

10. Something was wrong. The steamer began to travel off course and ran into the bank. While Thomas waited, he saw people hurrying to help.



11. “What happened to the steamer?” Thomas’s driver called. “The engine’s broken down. I need a skilled engineer!” the boat owner replied. Thomas told the Fat Controller who spoke to Ted and the boat owner. They both tested the steamer.

12. Ted found he had a hobby to keep him busy again. He happily agreed to look after the riverboat. Next day, as Thomas passed the river, he saw Ted working on board the steamer. “It’s a bit like the old days!” smiled Thomas. Ted agreed!



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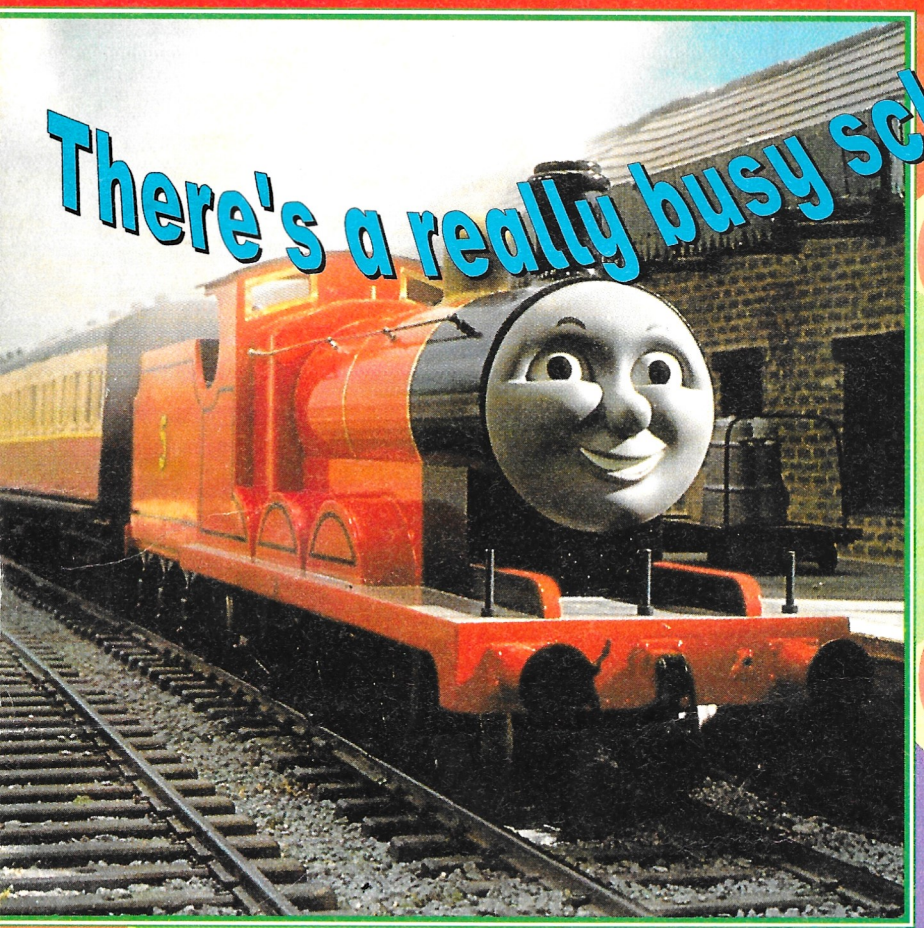

There's a really busy schedule to meet in Issue 192 of

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Sodor craft centre!

Colour with Thomas!

Poster!

On sale February 11th, 1995!